

Spooner Lake REM/Crystal Brook Fishery Area

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Property Overview

Spooner Lake REM, also known as Crystal Brook Fishery Area, is four miles east of the City of Spooner in Washburn County. This 83-acre property lies along the southeast shore of Spooner Lake near the mouth of Crystal Brook.

The property was purchased in 1963 with the intent of protecting spawning habitat on Spooner Lake. It has a mix of stands of oak, aspen and marsh and there are known archaeological sites nearby.

Facilities and Recreation Management

The Spooner Lake REM property provides one of several boat access sites on the lake. A parking lot is available for those using the launch. This property may only be accessed via watercraft or on the ice. The department does not have an easement with adjoining landowners to access the property. No other developed facilities are present, but visitors are welcome to use the property for fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking, wildlife viewing, wild edibles gathering, and canoeing.

Natural Resources Management

The management goal for this property is to protect the spawning habitat on Spooner Lake, its tributary and springs, provide fishing opportunities, manage habitat for fish and wildlife, implement sustainable forest management, and provide opportunities for wildlife and nature-based recreation. Upland habitat is managed to protect the spring pond and creek while providing wildlife habitat, timber values and compatible outdoor recreational opportunities. Timber sales are the primary management method for upland habitats.

Special Attributes:

“Primary Sites” are identified by the department for special consideration during the property planning process. The sites warrant high protection and/or restoration consideration during development of a master plan as they generally encompass the best examples of rare and representative natural communities or contain documented rare species populations with opportunities for restoration or connections. Primary Sites may be considered High Conservation Value Forests for the purpose of Forest Certification. The NHC program is collecting/analyzing field data to finalize Primary Site determinations by August 2018.

State Natural Area designations: Currently, no State Natural Areas are designated on this property. A state natural area may be designated during the course of this planning process.

Challenges

Timber management is difficult due to difficult site access.

